6/4/82

Dear Jim,

The news about your eye is great! And it looks like there is every reason to believe that it will only get better.

I got good eye news this week. No major changes in the slow-growing cataracts, no reason to expect them to grow any faster, no change in the corrections, and all that is visible with the light examinations, blood vessels, optic nerve, etc., if what it should be.

We had a rather good day after that examination. We picked up Lil's 92-year old mother, took her to shop for dresses, which she'd not planned, then took her out to lunch, the kind of change she enjoys, and again out to supper, and that night she saw some relatives she'd notmseen for a while when they planned the family reunion. She'd been a teetotaller all her life, until about a year ago, when a grandson got her to take a taste of wine. She enjoys an occasional one but won't get it where she's staying, so I had a bottle for her.

Indon't recall the downhill of your property, only the great view through the large window, but I imagine it is steep enough for you to get some good exercise bringing the firewood up. I've got year after next's supply stacked and drying just past the swimming ppol, and the beginning of this winter's supply, most of which I plan to buy dried. The future suplly is six cords of green oak, which will dry.

Hope you have other bay trees left.

Lil hasn't been doing much cooking. She is well but remains tired, so we go out pretty often. So she hasn't used many of the bay leaves.

As I write this there is mad dashing by grown and young chipmunks, grown rabbits and their very young, who can't move fast, and all kinds of birds right outside my window. The animal have learned that we feed birds on the ground and that the birds waste much from the feeders. The damned squirrels have just wrecked the new hanging feeder I though would defeat them and did for six months. For no need or reason, either. They get plenty without those seeds. I xxx enjoy seeing all of them carry on, but they make so much extra work and trouble! But the deer do not tarry around here and we don't see them often. Quail, alas, have grown scarce, between the building and the shooting.

I liked Hal, too, but I've often wondered about his silence.

If you saw last night's ABC special on Hoover, none of it was new, despite the puffery, and all of it on JFK was badly done. It was actually unfair to the FBI and ranged from dishonestly angled to false.

Can't begin to top your Mallard story, but I've a different one for you.

A young friend found an egg. He made an incubator to hatch it for his two kids, girl about 6 and boy about 2. It hatched. They've raised it too successfully. It now thinks it is not a duck, son't go in the stream near where they live, doesn't join the mallards in the city lake near which they live, and developed two dropped wings, distorted outer joints on both. I suggested to the wife that she either tape them in place for a while or take to the State vets, who are not far from them. She did the latter. They could not begin to believe that they were looking at a 5-week old female, it is that large. Their diagnosis, either overly-rapid growth or protein deficiency. I know it can't be the latter because I told them where to get what feed, and it had ample protein. But with all that TLC, it could have grown too rapidly. The duck is spoiled in other ways. It also gets to go to school, where the kids love it.

We jave a friend who found a lone, unfledged robin out of the abandoned nest. She raised it and now it won't go away. It comes to be fed the cut-up worms her husband and son have been providing. It now won't even eat uncut worms. It flys but doesn't go away. Her husband and son took a tree down. There was a nest in it with three unfledged young, species not yet known. They are feeding them cut-up worms and by golly, the robin also feeds them!

For the time being the affidavits are past. But there are other chores connected with the litigation. Just mailed Lesar a long memo on a DJ Brief that is distinguished for its mendacity. That is in the oldest of all FOIA cases, for the JFK scientific testing. I'm hoping that Lesar can find a safe way of calling all the dishonesty to the attention of the appeals court. They know the government lies, but they don't want to have to admit or face it.

Your best,